



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**MALAWI**

# COUNTRY PROFILE



A. Joynt, Children in the Wilderness

*A girl plants a tree after learning about the importance of protecting Malawi's wildlife at Children in the Wilderness Camp. USAID supports this program, which runs a one week camp where children learn about HIV/AIDS, good governance and democracy, human rights, nutrition, and environmental conservation.*

## MALAWI SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1964

Population: 11.2 million (2004)

Income per person: \$170 (yr)

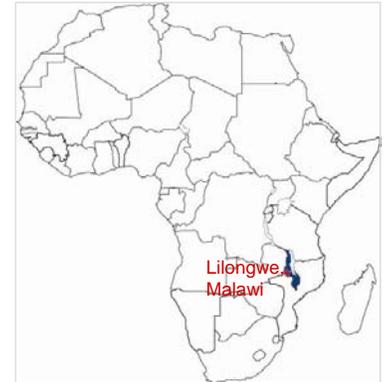
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

## USAID IN MALAWI

[www.usaid.gov/mw](http://www.usaid.gov/mw)

## OVERVIEW

In May 2004, Malawi conducted its third multi-party national election since emerging from decades of one-party autocracy in 1994. In his first two years in office, Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika has demonstrated particular commitment to economic reform, fiscal restraint, and efficient reinforcement of anti-corruption measures. Recent political infighting, however, has stalemated the business of parliament and made thoughtful decision-making on high profile issues like food, fertilizer, and subsidies very difficult. Nonetheless, the new administration's actions were a key factor in Malawi's selection as a Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) threshold country. USAID's program in Malawi focuses on rural economic growth, improved governance, HIV/AIDS and family health, and basic education.



## PROGRAMS

### INCREASING RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Fifty-five percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day and 80 percent of the population is dependent on subsistence and rain-fed agriculture. During the 2005 drought, approximately 4.8 million people required food assistance. To improve economic potential, USAID helps communities develop better farming techniques and new job opportunities. By supporting farmers' associations, USAID is helping ensure that farmers get fair prices for their crops. The value of agricultural products marketed by farmers associations reached \$2.7 million in 2005, continuing a three-year trend of annual increases. USAID continued to promote the growth of the dairy industry through 55 dairy associations with over 6,300 members, and milk sales grew by 71 percent from 2004 to 2005. Communities near protected natural areas are learning how to manage and profit from their environment. Revenues from sales of products like honey and mushrooms increased from \$55,431 in 2004 to \$200,587 in 2005.

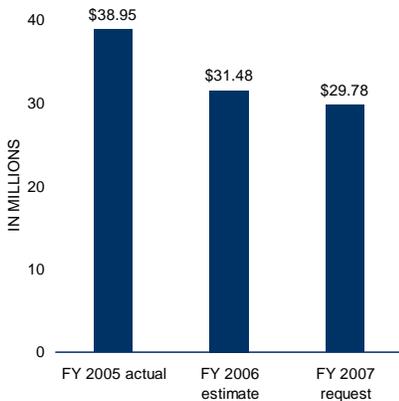
### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Malawi's democratically elected government has taken tentative steps to curb government over-spending, borrowing, and corruption. The private sector, civil society, and the media are active, and although facing constraints, are contributing substantively to a more productive, diverse, and free economy and society. USAID programs, in conjunction with the MCA,

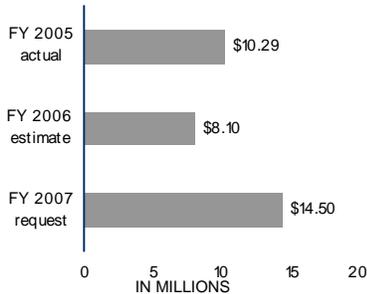


## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI



### USAID FOOD AID TO MALAWI



For more information, see the  
 FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification  
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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supported development of an anti-corruption campaign, political party development, and the ability of Malawian citizens to participate effectively in local government. USAID supported training for 25 Anti-Corruption Bureau staff members who are investigating 1,800 cases. USAID is working with the private sector to develop corporate anti-corruption systems. The Agency also provided support to an inter-faith conflict mitigation initiative that employs radio drama, call-in shows, and locally-based listener clubs to promote messages of tolerance and open avenues of communication.

### IMPROVING CARE FOR HIV/AIDS AND HEALTH

Life expectancy is only 37 years, due to the effects of the adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of 15 percent. An estimated 60 percent of the government's health worker positions are vacant and there are only 96 government doctors to address the health needs of 12 million people. USAID's health programs help people change harmful behaviors and improve the quality of and access to health services. USAID and President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief work with the Government of Malawi and several nongovernmental organizations to prevent HIV/AIDS, particularly among adolescents, emphasizing the "ABC" approach (Abstinence, Being faithful, and correct and consistent use of Condoms, where appropriate). The Agency has also opened 51 HIV/AIDS counseling and testing centers nationwide. USAID is addressing malaria, the number one cause of death for children under five years of age, through continued promotion of insecticide-treated bed nets. The percentage of households using bed nets increased from 13 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in 2004.

### EDUCATION

While access to education has improved in Malawi since 1994, when primary school fees were eliminated, education quality is still of great concern. USAID's basic education program continues to improve teachers' professional skills, develop schools' abilities to respond to the needs of the student population, and decrease the impact of HIV/AIDS in the sector. At the classroom level, USAID provided in-service training in math, science, and English to nearly 6,400 primary school teachers. With USAID encouragement, more and more teachers are helping students participate in learning, rather than just using a lecture-style approach in the classroom. And in four USAID target districts, 63 percent of school committees have started HIV/AIDS outreach activities such as orphan care centers and anti-AIDS youth clubs.